

A TRIBUTE TO SIMON GRATZ HIGH SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philadelphia's Simon Gratz High School in my district, which this year celebrates its 70th anniversary. Named for the noted Philadelphia civic leader, legislator, educator, and philanthropist, Simon Gratz High School has been serving the north Philadelphia community since 1927. This is a truly comprehensive high school that provides a sound education to over 2,200 students with diverse needs and backgrounds, and serves as the "flagship school" of the Gratz cluster.

Simon Gratz has established six small learning communities within the school, designed to meet the needs and special interests of the students. These small learning communities include: the Automotive Academy, the Business Institute, the Center for Creative Communications, Crossroads for the Arts and Sciences, Magna Carta—Learning through Law, and Springboard—Allied Health and Teaching Careers. In addition to these special programs, Simon Gratz has a job training program and a teen parent educational center, the Constance E. Clayton Teen Parent Center, this named after our great, former superintendent of schools.

A matter of great pride for Simon Gratz High School and the surrounding community is its great tradition of excellence in athletics. The high school's comprehensive athletic program boasts particularly strong wrestling, football, baseball, and basketball teams. In fact, two recent Simon Gratz graduates were just in the national spotlight as teammates on the Portland Trailblazers team that made this year's NBA playoffs. Those two young men, Rasheed Wallace and Aaron McKie, are the latest in a long line of Simon Gratz scholar/athletes who have gone on to national prominence from their Philadelphia roots. Other famous Simon Gratz graduates include: Pat Kelly, former manager of the Minnesota Twins; Meldrick Taylor, a 1984 Olympic boxing gold medalist; Leroy Kelly, formerly of the Cleveland Browns; and Baseball Hall of Famer, Roy Campanella.

Other outstanding graduates include: our former colleague, William Gray III; the Honorable John Green, sheriff of Philadelphia County; Herman Mattleman, former president of the Philadelphia Board of Education; the Honorable Judge Katherine Streeter Lewis of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; and the current principal of Simon Gratz High School, James G. Slaughter.

On Sunday, May 18, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Simon Gratz High School will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the school by inviting back alumni, former faculty and administrators, and friends from the community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in honoring Simon Gratz High School for 70 years of excellence and service to the community of north Philadelphia.

GUAM STUDENT JENNY ANDREA TOVES TO REPRESENT SIMON SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL AT NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I met with Jenny Andrea Toves, a 14-year-old student from Simon Sanchez High School on Guam and her advisor, Mrs. Shirley Ruiz. Jenny was selected to represent Guam at the National Youth Summit to Prevent Underage Drinking that is being held here in Washington. The summit, which is sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, targets underage drinking as part of its overall effort to combat drunk driving.

Jenny came to attend the summit to gain ideas on how to raise the legal drinking age in Guam from 18 to 21. She is a member of her school's drug prevention club and is active in the young women's organization at her church. She is a member of the Guam Show Choir, the Board of Governing Students, and the student body association.

During our meeting, Jenny presented me with the top three youth summit recommendations that were adopted by summit participants. These include the automatic loss of license for those under 21 on their first alcohol-related offense, that zero tolerance laws for those under 21 have strong sanctions and include a strong media campaign to raise awareness, and that requirements be made for alcohol advertisers to pay for public service announcements to counter alcohol advertisements. It is clear from their recommendations that the direction from our youth is to seriously deal with these issues and to pursue them here in Washington and back home in their respective communities.

Jenny was sincerely excited about participating in the summit and has expressed her commitment to carry on with this work. I was proud to know that she will continue to lead, coordinate, and participate in educational and peer efforts designed to combat drunk driving and underage drinking at home on Guam. We should take notice of the willingness of Jenny and the other participants of the summit to work on these issues and commend them for their efforts. I know that I will be seriously considering these proposals and hope that my colleagues will do the same.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my personal concern about an issue of great importance to a number of families in New Jersey, an issue of fundamental fairness. Irish-Americans and their families have been discriminated against for many years. On February 6 of this year, many Irish-American families testified about their imminent deportation. These heartfelt testimonies conclude that deportation divides husband and wife, father and

son, and mother and daughter. The separation divides the family unit and causes undue stress on extended family members. So, you can see why I am particularly concerned about the deportation of innocent Irish-Americans who in many cases have been denied due process.

Cases of individuals being targeted for prosecution by the Immigration and Naturalization Service include Noel Gaynor, Robbie McErlan, Gabriel Megahey, Matt Morrison, Kevin Crossan, Charles Caulfield, and Brian Pearson, who all share a number of similarities.

These men suffered political persecution in Northern Ireland. Several served time as special category political prisoners after being convicted through torture and extorted confessions. None of these men are currently wanted for any crime in Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Britain.

These are men who have led exemplary lives as productive, law-abiding members of their community. They are no threat to national security and their threatened deportation goes against the moral fiber of the United States.

In spite of these factors, the United States is zealously pursuing deportation proceedings against these men. The legal cost and not to mention the emotional strain are overwhelming and have taken a devastating toll on each of these families.

The Justice Department is seeking to have anyone imprisoned by the British for a political offense automatically deported regardless of how long they have lived in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would call to the attention of my colleagues the graphic portrayal of continuing British injustice toward the Irish in the movie "In the Name of the Father," based on a true and very tragic case.

I believe that due process of the law should be given to Noel Gaynor, Gabriel Megahey, and Brian Pearson, all of whom face deportation.

I have written letters to urge the administration to stop these unfair proceedings. If these individuals are deported, American families will suffer.

HONORING PATRICIA FORD, GERALD GRANTNER, AND MARVIN MCLAUGHLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three individuals who have given so much of themselves in their duties as public servants to the citizens of Michigan. On Thursday, May 15, the staff of the Michigan Jobs Commission will recognize Ms. Patricia Ford, Mr. Gerald Grantner, and Mr. Marvin McLaughlin as they retire after many years of dedicated service.

Ms. Patricia Ford has been an advocate for disabled individuals for over the last quarter century. As a member of the group Disabled in Action, she successfully fought for the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She began her employment with the State of Michigan in 1978 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Throughout her career, Ms. Ford